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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report

For the period 2 December 1942 to 15 January 1943

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P R E F A C E

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. A total of 145 reports, [redacted] appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. [redacted] include mostly daily reports for March 1943 as well as a few monthly reports covering the latter part of 1942 and the early part of 1943. The last four reports, [redacted] summarize Soviet economic activities for periods of three to nine months in 1943 and 1944.

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[redacted] three of these reports have been translated and issued by [redacted] One hundred reports, [redacted] are being translated and issued by Strategic Division of the Office of Research and Reports (SRIA). The series will be completed with the publication of [redacted]

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**Military-Economic Report**

(Based on domestic radio reports and observations from radio traffic)

For the period 2 December 1942 to 15 January 1943

**I. PERSONNEL SITUATION**

(1) The differences between the NKRF and the NKO continue because of the release or draft exemption of NKRF employees. On the one hand, on 28 and 29 November 1942, 495 NKRF men up to 27 years of age from various rajons, who were draft exempt up to the present time, were released for call into military service. The NKRF Office in Molotov is to release 50 men for the Moscow Military Okrug and 10 men for the Ural Military Okrug; the NKRF plant in Astrakhan 2 men, Uralsk Base 10 men. On the other hand, the Council of the Peoples' Commissars extended the draft exemption of workers of the NKRF to 1 April 1943. The age limit for release from the NKRF has been set at 30 years.

(2) Generally--not only for the NKRF--people in the age group over 50 are not drafted for military service for the army and consequently, are not subject to draft exemption.

(3) The base for the NKRF in Usa (Ust-Usa?) gives the number of military personnel as 346, of these 9 are supply leaders, 322 are subordinates and enlisted personnel (remainder ?). The tractor-drivers of the NKRF appear to be free, temporarily, from military service.

(4) Personnel shortages appear quite frequently because of military drafts. Thus transport workers are lacking in Ulyanovsk and boiler workers for repairing ships are lacking in Gurev. Ust-Usa reports that various barges must remain tied up with their cargoes until the spring because there are no workers on hand to unload.

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(5) At the Ust Kozhva wharf the following hourly wages are being paid:

Contract workers:

Cold metal work	70 kopecks
Warm metal work	77 "
especially heavy work	80.5 kopecks

Temporary workers

Cold metal work	63 kopecks
Warm metal work	69.3 kopecks

(6) In the Northern Rajon of the NKRF workers receive instruction in English conversation during their training.

(7) Uralsk complained that there were no useful tractor mechanics on hand to maintain orderly operation. Furthermore, all the shoemakers have been drafted into military service and planned production for the shoe factory cannot be carried out. Students were drafted for harvest work. There are no bookkeepers on hand to prepare the annual work statement.

(8) Uralsk and Alma Ata are lacking surgeons. According to an order from Moscow, nursing mothers are to be drafted for work. In Saratov timber procurement cannot be undertaken because of the shortage of workers and necessary tools.

(9) A message of the Air Fleet suggests that a greater part of the pilots from the Western Front were placed at the disposal of the Air Fleet in Baku.

(10) All newspapers have published the decree of the Peoples' Commissars whereby everyone must work only for the state and work for one's own needs should be completely discontinued.

## II. FOOD SITUATION AND AGRICULTURE

(11) In Kustanai courses have been arranged for farm leaders belonging to the sovkhozes there. Sufficient experience in their fields of work is required of the candidates for leading posts. Relatively many women have been enrolled in these courses, apparently as a result of the shortage of men.

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(12) The repair workshops for agricultural machines in Uralsk are idle. The work in this oblast' has not been very successful up to now. The threshing results are poor. The sunflower crop of 36,000 hectares still had to be threshed at the beginning of December. Information is lacking about a further area of 20,000 hectares. Many other grains are still unthreshed.

(13) Great significance is attached to the salvage of potato -cabbage in Alma Ata. A barge with 960 tons of potatoes for the Southern Front wintered in Kujbyshev Bay. The freight has not been collected for two months, so that the potatoes and also the boat are beginning to rot. These potatoes were later given over to the Kujbyshev factory with instructions that the good potatoes be stored for seed and the frozen ones be used for food purposes.

(14) The Trade Commissariat in Alma Ata is concerned over the fact that nothing has happened with regard to the scheduled plan for drying vegetables and potatoes in the region of Kustanai. In Uralsk, in the first quarter of 1943, the dry-storage facilities are to be rebuilt and enlarged.

(15) Kazakhstan prepared a cattle census. The results show that there were an insufficient number of horses in Aktyubinsk. There were 7-8,000 sheep on hand.

(16) In Aktyubinsk importing cattle fodder and sheltering the cattle, which were presumably driven here from other districts, are creating difficulties. The stalls are the first to be built. Nets to firmly tie the cattle are also lacking. The cattle, which cannot be driven further and also those that are not suited for wintering, should be sent immediately to the meat combines for slaughtering. The rearing of the young cattle in Aktyubinsk is indicated as favorable.

(17) The Oblast' of Kustanai is fulfilling poorly the scheduled delivery of wheat, vegetables, meat, mill fabrics and milk products. The sovkhozes were also behind in grain deliveries. To control payments in kind, people are being



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sent into the rajons. The conditions are similar in the oblasti of Aktyubinsk and Uralsk. In Aktyubinsk, for example, no sovkhos filled the planned milk delivery.

(18) The following reports refer to the supply situation of the population: In Kustanai there are many hardships with respect to the food situation, especially regarding public restaurants. The children of persons recruited for work in sovkhoses are being fed and supplied at the State's expense.

(19) The NKRF workers at the cross-over point of the Volga are insufficiently supplied. They lack butter and fat. The dependents of the workers and employees of the Ship Repair Yard at Kujbyshev, numbering 5,534 persons, are not being supplied with bread. The enterprises of the NKRF are forbidden to deliver potatoes to the local population.

(20) On the other hand, stokers of the NKRF Office in Chardzhou are receiving double rations.

(21) From Leningrad it is reported that the living and working conditions are two and three times better than in the previous year.

(22) A single message: 362 cases of coffee are still lying in the harbor of Astrakhan. These were assumed by the Chief Confectioner of the State.

### III. INDUSTRY

(23) A new shaft is located 90 kilometers from Uralsk and 20 kilometers from the railroad station Olkhavat (not located). The normal haulage is to be determined from 1 January on. Whether it is coal or metal was not determined. The bed of the occurrence must be very thick.

(24) From Novetroitskij, Orsk Rajon (perhaps Novorossijskij is meant, about 100 km. SSW Orsk) the haulage results of manganese (?) ores are reported as follows:

on 8 December	213 tons
9 December	222 tons
since the beginning of the month	2824 tons total.

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The transport of the ores is being delayed by a lack of railroad cars.

(25) A blast furnace is in operation in Aktyubinsk. A second cannot be put into operation and is extinguished. The mines, accordingly, cannot fulfill the plan. The cause of this appears to be an insufficient coal supply from Karaganda.

(26) There is presumably a steel plant in Omsk (Hatfield-steel).

(27) Within the Tiflis Enterprise, 4,695 tons (ferrous metals) were produced in the fourth quarter against a planned production of 4,000 tons.

(28) The Directorate of the Aluminum Plant Bogoslovsk is located in Turinskie Rudniki (Sverdlovsk Oblast').

(29) Repair workshops for tractors are located in Uralsk, Aktyubinsk and Kustanai. Motor vehicles are also repaired in Uralsk, while spare parts for tractors are also produced in Aktyubinsk. Uralsk is behind in its work because it lacks coal, carbide, packing and spare parts. Also Kustanai cannot fill the scheduled plan. Specially trained forging technical workers are being trained here.

(30) Agricultural machines are being put in condition in Kustanai.

(31) An office of the Air Fleet reports that they have no reserve parts, and hence the employees are absent. Also there are insufficient motor vehicles.

(32) Packard Motors have recently been installed in ships at Plant Kujbyshv. In the case of boat building, the plants of the NKRF are to use worn-out machine oil for packing instead of tar. Metals from evacuated plants and from those consignments which have not been delivered to Stalingrad, Astrakhan and the Caucasus are being used for ship repairs. The Repair Workshop in Kujbyshv requests permission to transfer an order of 50 boats for the Middle Volga Steamship Agency because of its work-load. Fifty boiler smiths are to be sent from Astrakhan to Gurev to repair ships of Volgatanker. A 400 h.p. barge is being repaired in Irkutsk.

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(33) In Kustanai there is a shoe combine and a factory for producing powdered milk. The latter should begin operating in January.

(34) Tiflis reported to the Chief Confectioner's Union in Moscow that the factories are idle because of the lack of sugar.

(35) In Leningrad cases are needed for shipment to Krasnogorsk. There were further conversations about valuable materials such as packing goods as well as mention of equipment from workshops and laboratories, instruments and lathes. This appears to concern the transfer of a factory to Krasnogorsk. The transport should go by way of Chelyabinsk. An additional factory should be evacuated from Leningrad to Novosibirsk. A part of the machinery has been left on the western bank of Lake Ladoga.

(36) Leningrad lacks window glass which cannot be delivered from Moscow.

(37) In Gorkij the production of special warm clothes was suspended because of a lack of wadding as an interliner.

(38) In Kambarka (Molotov Rajon) an electric factory is being built.

(39) In Saratov there is a motor vehicle repair station of the Peoples' Commissariat for the Aviation Industry. The city suffers from a lack of shoes, padding material and white metal.

(40) The newspaper "Krasnyj Vodnik" in Astrakhan is printed in an issue of only 600 copies as a result of the newsprint shortage.

(41) Machines were to be inspected in Uralsk by a foreign Commission. The acceptance was for the most part refused because the Commission spotted material defects, such as bubbles in brass parts. There has not been any electricity or petroleum for lighting in the city for over a month.

(42) Moscow directed that the work of the Armaments Industry in Aktyubinsk be tripled. Also the food industry should expand and, for example, open a canning factory.

(43) An oil factory has become idle in Kustanai.

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(44) In the region of Yakutsk the erection of a power station is planned at a cost of 310,000 rubles.

(45) The office of the NKRF in Irkutsk was not allowed to use dismantled boilers from ships with respect to a planned increase in the output of stationary equipment for the industry.

(46) Collections are underway for the building of a plant to be called the "25th Anniversary of the Red Army".

IV. GAS AND FUEL

(47) Since many messages complain about the lack of gas and fuel, and since these complaints are consistently repeated, it can be said that the difficulties are real in this respect. Strong rationing measures have been ordered. A series of factories could not meet their planned tasks or had to be completely shut down.

(48) Many times ligroin has been delivered instead of gasoline. To a large extent, conversions from firing with liquid fuels to wood burning or wood-gas combinations have resulted--the first in the case of boiler firing in factories and on ships, the latter in the case of tractors and motor vehicles.

(49) In connection with this, there is naturally an increased demand for timber, and this becomes apparent in numerous messages within the NKRF, which deal with the organization of timber procurement, the distribution of work, the assignment of tools (saws, axes) and the adjustment of the heavy transport situation.

V. TRANSPORT SITUATION

(50) In Aktyubinsk there is a lack of cars for transporting food collected presumably for the Front. A school cannot be resettled far from Aktyubinsk, since transport trains are not being made available according to a Moscow decree.

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Cattle are to be evacuated from Kustanai. Because of the overloading of the railroads, cattle must be driven for the most part. In Alma Ata the transportation situation is indicated as "particularly heavy", since cars are not being made available.

(51) According to an order from Moscow, the office of the NKRF in Molotov is to secure horse transports, since gas cannot be allocated. In Uralsk all motor vehicles were collected. On 6 December the following quantities of turnover goods were stored in Kujbyshev:

cement	4 cars
timber	8 "
spun and woven goods	40 "
chemicals	42 "
iron	20 "
other goods	196 "

(52) In addition, ships wintering in Kujbyshev:

cement	114 cars
timber	40 "
clinkers	35 "
brick	8 "
wheat	200 "
spun and woven goods	10 "
other goods	163 "

(53) In Beloborodovo (in the vicinity of Tomsk) several ships are frozen in. There is a danger of losing the ships.

(54) In Ural Oblast' there are 9,015 camels on hand.

(55) Between Aktyubinsk and Karabutak (about 200 km. east of Aktyubinsk) there is a radio line.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS

(56) In the entire countryside voluntary collections were carried out for the construction of tanks, planes and torpedo cutters, and were zealously promoted by all party offices. Considerable proceeds were obtained. Especially strong indications were mentioned in the press. The voluntary contributions increased

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after Stalin's speech on 6 November 1942 on the 25th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution and especially after the successes of the Russians in December and January in Stalingrad, the Caucasus and the relief of Leningrad, which were strongly exploited as propaganda. Frequently indications appeared in connection with telegrams of allegiance to Stalin.

(57) On the Don front military reconstruction work is under way (Section Elgart was mentioned). In Ulyanovsk (Volga) two reconstruction divisions are to be formed.

(58) According to a telegram of an inventor to Stalin, a new flak-construction has been discovered which will allegedly destroy 80 percent of the planes fired on. The inventor requested support in developing his invention.

(59) For the New Year a collection of gifts for the front was organized. Gifts from Aktyubinsk were brought to the Front by a popular commander and hero of the Soviet Union, a native of Aktyubinsk.

(60) In Kazakhstan Oblast' courses were given to teach personnel in the techniques of snowshoes. Apparently this is part of paramilitary training.

(61) Within the office of the NKRF military training courses for radio operators were carried out.

(62) In Uralsk Oblast' there were certain difficulties in making up the lists of new selections, since there were no suitable dependable candidates on hand. The assembled candidates were not confirmed because their schooling was inadequate. They should be, if possible, local people with a good knowledge of Russian speech. Kazakhstan Oblast' is not very dependable politically.

(63) Political Central of the NKRF in Moscow indicates that recruitment of members of Communist Party cells has fallen off. A more intensive campaign for recruiting members is ordered for the Party offices of the NKRF.